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LAOS: The hard-line Communist proposals on the military aspects of the Lao peace agreement fail to address several points important to Vientiane and the US. The proposals call for:

- a formal demarcation line that would give the Communists control of some areas presently occupied by the government.
- a prohibition on the integration of irregular forces into the Lao Army and the dismantling of all irregular bases, including enclaves such as Bouam Long.
- the closure of refugee settlements and the return of the refugees within 30 days to their places of origin.
- the establishment of only six permanent locations for teams of the Joint Military Commission, none of which are near either the infiltration corridor to South Vietnam or the North Vietnamese border, and no expanded role for the International Control Commission.

The proposals do include provisions for the withdrawal of all "foreign" troops in three phases to be completed within 60 days of the formation of a new government, but there are no procedures for the accounting of US personnel missing in Laos and the replacement of war materiel.

The Communists are demanding that formation of a new government be held in abeyance until agreement can be reached on military questions. Although the Communists probably intend to concede some of their demands during the talks, a good deal of tough bargaining lies ahead.

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